

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 24, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 442. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 442—"no"—On Motion to Adjourn.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I risk today in opposition to H.R. 6304, The FISA Amendments Act of 2008. As a representative from New York City, I know how important good intelligence is in ensuring that our Nation does not face another terrorist attack. However, we must ensure that we do not trample on civil liberties in the process. This administration has expanded the powers of the government to monitor the actions of American citizens with, unfortunately, too little oversight from Congress or the courts.

While I appreciate the efforts to reach a compromise on this legislation, H.R. 6304 does not go far enough to protect the rights of the American people. The legislation allows for retroactive immunity for telecommunication companies that participated in the Bush administration's warrantless wiretapping program. I also am concerned that most Members of Congress will not have access to important reports issued by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence.

We should stand up for the Constitution and for the rights of our constituents by ensuring that their privacy is better protected.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to express my enthusiastic support for H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, which amends titles XVII and XIX of the Social Security Act and extends expiring provisions under the Medicare program. H.R. 6331 not only prevents the 10.6 percent pay cut to physicians scheduled to take effect July 1 while maintaining current payment levels for the rest of 2008, but it replaces the additional 5.4 percent cut scheduled on January 1, 2009 with a 1.1 percent increase in Medicare physician payments. By preventing these cuts, suppliers will be able to anticipate the costs that they will incur and will be less likely to withdraw from the program. H.R. 6331 also has a very positive outcome for beneficiaries as well. The

provisions will improve choice and access to health care providers by changing the network requirements for the Medicare Advantage Private Fee for Service Plan. Further the bill will reduce cost-sharing for mental health services and increase coverage for preventive services.

These policy improvements will translate into significant relief for the national medical community, including the 21 hospitals in the Illinois Seventh Congressional District; a district which also has some of the most medically underserved constituents of any in this nation. Many of these individuals are Medicare beneficiaries that seek hundreds of Chicago doctors to provide Medicare services. Therefore, it is in the best interest of my constituents as well as Medicare providers, suppliers, and recipients across this nation that Congress enacts H.R. 6331, The Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act. As a testament to the importance of this issue to Chicago, I received over 50 calls within the last few days urging me to support this bill. I stand with these constituents and Chicago more broadly to support this bill.

I would like to thank Chairman RANGEL for spearheading this legislation. I have fought and will continue to advocate vigorously in Congress alongside my colleagues for the improvement of Medicare resources in support of Medicare providers, suppliers, and beneficiaries.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN MARY T. NORTON ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Congresswoman Mary T. Norton of New Jersey on the 70th anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Congresswoman Norton was instrumental in passing the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938, legislation which has greatly impacted our labor history and our history as a Nation.

Growing up, I attended an all-girls Catholic school called Lauralton Hall in Connecticut. Last year, I spoke with Lauralton's current president Barbara Griffin and discussed her research for a master's dissertation she wrote 25 years ago about Mary Norton—the first Democratic woman to serve in Congress and the first woman to chair a major committee in the House. A few weeks later, the dissertation showed up in my mailbox and I sat down with it over the holidays. After reading Barbara's dissertation, I was thoroughly impressed by Mary Norton. Her work laid the foundation that we are building on here today. And she did it all with a skillful blend of strength and compassion.

Mary T. Norton led an extraordinary life. She began her social activism in Jersey City and quickly became the first woman member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. She was elected to the House of Representatives for the 12th Congressional District of New Jersey in 1924, where she was the only woman in the House at that time who was not filling her husband's unexpired term

and one of the first women to be elected to and serve in Congress. Norton served in the House until 1951, for a total of 13 terms. During her time in Congress, Norton became the first woman to chair a major committee. In fact, she was head of three committees during her time in the House: Veterans' Affairs, District of Columbia, and Labor.

One of the Congresswoman's most accomplished moments came while she was chair of the Labor Committee in 1938 when the House passed the Fair Labor Standards Act. Despite much opposition to what was at the time a controversial bill and despite the first version of the legislation being rejected, the House passed the final version of the legislation by a vote of 314 to 97. The Fair Labor Standards Act was later signed into law by President Roosevelt on June 25, 1938.

The Fair Labor Standards Act plays a significant role in our labor history and our history as a Nation. It is the formative legislation for the labor rights that we today take for granted—minimum wage, overtime pay, and child labor laws—and greatly improved the quality of life for so many workers in our country. Congresswoman Norton was a champion for the American worker and played an integral role in passing this critical legislation that would shape our Nation for years to come.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me to celebrate and honor the life and work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton on the 70th anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 439, H. Con. Res. 372, Supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the contributions to our Nation made by African American singers and musicians, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT INFORMATION ACT OF 2008

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Earned Income Tax Credit Information Act of 2008, legislation that will make it easier for millions of Americans to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit, (EITC).

Every year I host tax clinics in my district in order to help my constituents get a fair deal when they file their taxes. Hundreds of my constituents come to these clinics and with the help of volunteers receive thousands of dollars in tax refunds.

But millions of Americans and thousands in my district still don't get the tax credits they deserve, like the EITC. The EITC is the single most important tool we have to encourage work and reduce poverty in our country.

Nationally, over 22 million working Americans benefit from this program and receive